THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that as per Guidelines prescribed for Commissioned Programmes, proposals received from outside producers under commissioned category by Doordarshan Centres are first evaluated by an Evaluation Committee consisting of senior officials of Doordarshan and outside experts from various fields. Thereafter, shortlisted proposals are put up to the Costing Committee for final decision.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that 61 proposals for Commissioned Programmes have been received by Doordarshan Kendra, Shimla, against the advertisement, with a cut off date of 09/12/2002, for the Financial year 2002-03. These are being evaluated by Doordarshan.

FDI limits for DTH Services

1170. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government have fixed any FDI limits in relation to Direct-to-Home (DTH) Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reconsider FDI limits in relation to Print Media, DTH Services and News-uplinking; and

(d) whether it is also proposed to put in place a regulatory system to ensure a license for DTH Services is granted to a foreign company which keeps an Indian company as a dummy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a)and (b) As per guidelines issued on 15.3.2001, total foreign investment including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII in DTH broadcasting shall not exceed 49% within which the FDI component shall not exceed 20%.

(c)There is no proposal presently to reconsider the FDI limits in Print Media and DTH service. A proposal to review the present uplinking

guidelines permitting foreign owned news channels to uplink from India, is under consideration.

(d) This Ministry regulates the grant of licence for DTH services, which can be issued subject to fulfillment of laid down eligibility criteria, and compliance with various terms and conditions.

Scenes of polluting culture being telecast

†1171. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scenes polluting culture, civilisation and traditions of the country are being telecast on various channels in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Complaints/suggestions are received from time to time, expressing concerns about programmes telecast on TV Channels.

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the Programes and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend god taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

Doordarshan abides by its Broadcast Code and Code for Commercial Advertising, while telecasting programmes/advertisements. Doordarshan also previews its programmes to ensure their suitability for family viewing.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.